



February 7, 2021

A Midnight Surprise

Chapter 3

“Who are you?” he asked.

‘I am your servant Ruth,’ she replied. ‘Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.’” Ruth 3:9

A. It’s time...

“One day Naomi said to Ruth, ‘My daughter, it’s time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for.’” Vs 3:1

1. Tonight is the night!

“Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he’s been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight, he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor.” Vs 3:2

2. Get ready and look your best.

“Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don’t let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking.” Vs 3:3

3. Ruth followed the instructions of her mother-in-law. The threshing floor was significant, both in Old and New Testaments. It was commonly on the harvest field and was a hard, smooth, rock surface. The farmer usually remained all night, both to protect his crop and to winnow. The operation was in the evening to catch the breezes and they often ate and slept there. The duty was so important that the master often took it himself.

“So she went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law.” Vs 3:6

(Threshing floor pictures)

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 3:11-13

4. Ruth uncovered Boaz’ feet and lays down. This was not at all a sexual invitation, but a sign of submission.

“Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.” Vs 3:7b

5. Boaz’ is surprised.

“Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet!” Vs 3:8

6. Ruth humbly proposed to Boaz. Ruth had a right, but instead of demanding, she humbly asked. It was not forward but proper.

“Who are you?” he asked. ‘I am your servant Ruth,’ she replied. ‘Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.’” Vs 3:9

7. This proposal was a dangerous mission and could have brought fear to Ruth.

- It was a woman proposing to a man.
- It was a young woman to an older man.
- It was a field laborer to the field owner.
- It was a foreigner to a citizen.

“I will do everything you say,’ Ruth replied.” Vs 3:5

B. It was character that made the difference...

“May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” Philippians 1:1

1. The character of both Ruth and Boaz was very clear.

“Now don’t worry about a thing, my daughter.” Vs 3:11a

“I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman.” Vs 3:11b

2. Ruth and Boaz had been in each other’s company for months. (A bit like group dating.)

“So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz’s fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer.” Vs 2:23

3. Boaz was aware of his relationship to Ruth but would not force himself on her. Boaz was older and didn’t think he would be attractive to Ruth.

“The LORD bless you, my daughter!” Boaz exclaimed. ‘You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor.’” Vs 3:10

4. Ruth may not have been fully aware of the culture and the practices, as Naomi ended up guiding her.

“Boaz is a close relative of ours...” Vs 3:2a

5. Ruth was drawn to Boaz by his kindness and his character.

“Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. ‘What have I done to deserve such kindness?’ she asked. ‘I am only a foreigner.’” Vs 2:10

6. Boaz was attracted to Ruth’s character, her moral strength, her values, and her integrity. (Hero)

“But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law...” Vs 2:11

7. Ruth’s proposal to Boaz said, “I trust you. I respect you. I put my fate in your hands.”

“I am your servant Ruth,” Vs 3:9a

C. Boaz was one of the family (kinsman) redeemers...

“But while it’s true that I am one of your family redeemers...” Vs 3:12
“If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him.” Leviticus 25:25

- A Kinsman-Redeemer or family redeemer must:
 - Be related by blood to those he redeems.
 - Be able to pay the price of redemption.
 - Be willing to redeem.
 - Be free himself.

“Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.” Hebrews 2:14-15

- The family redeemer was established to stabilize a disrupted family circumstance. God values family.
 - He would reacquire property lost by family members who had fallen on hard times.
 - He would redeem relatives because of poverty who had sold themselves into slavery.
 - He would avenge relatives who died at the hands of others.
 - He could receive payments owed to dead relatives.

- e. He would alleviate wrongs that could be alleviated.

“Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and redeemed His people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of His servant David,” Luke 1:68-69

3. Boaz integrity remained intact. He loved Ruth enough to just want the best for her.

“But while it’s true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. Stay here tonight, and in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the LORD lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning.” Vs 3:12-13

4. Boaz did not want Ruth’s character tarnished and made it known that no one must know she spent the night on the threshing floor.

“So Ruth lay at Boaz’s feet until the morning, but she got up before it was light enough for people to recognize each other. For Boaz had said, ‘No one must know that a woman was here at the threshing floor.’” Vs 3:14

5. Boaz sent her home to Naomi with more grain.

“He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” Vs 3:17

6. Naomi knew what this all meant.

“Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. The man won’t rest until he has settled things today.” Vs 3:18

D. Character matters...

1. Boaz was committed to purity. Both Ruth and Boaz were placed in the way of impurity, but both chose purity. Are you committed to purity in your relationships? God is calling all of us to that commitment.

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

“We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.” 2 Corinthians 6:6

2. Boaz loved Ruth enough to want the best for her, even if it wasn’t to benefit him. True love always seeks the best for those you love. Are you willing to set aside your own needs for the love of others?

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

3. Boaz and Ruth were willing to follow God’s will in God’s way. They believed that if God were really directing this relationship, then they would follow the proper way. If you wait, God will always bring His will in His timing. Are you willing to follow God’s will in God’s way?

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:15-17

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202